AN

ACCOUNT

OF A MOST

Efficacious Medicine

FOR

SORE EYES.

[Price SIX-PENCE.]

AN

ACCOUNT

OF A MOST

Efficacious Medicine

FOR

SORE EYES

[Price Six Pence.]

1180. h. 1.
8°

AN

ACCOUNT

OF A MOST

Efficacious Medicine

FOR

SORENESS, WEAKNESS,

And Several Other

DISTEMPERS of the EYES.

BY

Sir *HANS SLOANE*, Bart.
Physician to his Majesty, &c.

THE SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:
Printed for Dan. Browne, at the *Black-Swan*, without *Temple-Bar*.

AN

ACCOUNT

OF A MOST

Efficacious Medicine

FOR

SORENESS, WEAKNESS,

And Several Other

DISTEMPERS of the EYES.

BY

Sir HANS SLOANE, Bart.
Physician to His Majesty, &c.

THE SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

TO THE

KING.

SIR,

THIS Account of my most *Effectual Medicine* for the Cure of *Sore* and

and *Weak Eyes*, is now made public for the Benefit of Mankind; and most humbly Dedicated to your MAJESTY, by,

Your MAJESTY'S,

Most Dutiful, and

Most Obedient, Subject

and Servant,

HANS SLOANE.

AN ACCOUNT OF A MOST *Efficacious Medicine* FOR SORE EYES.

THROUGH an earneſt Deſire to be uſeful in my Profeſſion, the Practice of Phyſic, to which I was led by a ſtrong natural Inclination, I was always very attentive to Matters of Fact, and the real Cures that fell under my Obſervation. Of theſe I ſaw many performed upon *ſore Eyes* by Doctor *Luke Rugeley:* whereupon I applied to a very underſtanding Apothe-

cary of his particular Acquaintance and mine, and endeavoured, though without Effect, to procure ſome Knowledge of the Medicine he made uſe of. After the Doctor's Death I ſtill purſued my Enquiry, by ſearching into his printed Books, and Manuſcript Papers, and particularly into a very curious *Materia Medica* left by Him: but all in vain; 'till at length a Perſon, whom I believe he had employed in making his Medicine, came to me; and for a pecuniary Reward, joined to a Promiſe of not divulging it to his Prejudice, delivered me up the genuine Receipt, in the Doctor's own Hand-Writing; which, as I reformed, improved, and uſed it many Years, is as follows.

The

THE RECEIPT.

TAKE of prepared Tutty, one Ounce; of *Lapis Hæmatites* prepared, two Scruples; of the beſt Aloes prepared, twelve Grains; of prepared Pearl, four Grains. Put them into a Porphyry, or Marble Mortar, and rub them with a Peſtle of the ſame Stone very carefully, with a ſufficient Quantity of Viper's Greaſe, or Fat, to make a *Liniment*; to be uſed daily, Morning or Evening, or both, according to the Conveniency of the Patient: as hereafter directed.

This

This Medicine I ſoon tried, and, though a Compoſition, found it ſo ſurprizingly beneficial, that by the right Uſe of it not one in five Hundred miſſed of a Cure: unleſs their Diſorder proceeded from a Venereal Taint.

Several Years after I had been in Poſſeſſion of this Secret, in turning over ſome Manuſcripts of Sir *Theodore Mayerne*, I found he had known the ſame Ointment, or Liniment, and had entered it in his *Pharmacopœa*, under his own Name: though I afterwards diſcovered, that it was not originally his, but had been communicated to him by Sir *Matthew Liſter*, a Member of the College of Phyſicians; who had performed a Cure with it on a Lady *Savile*, which Sir *Theodore* thought a very extraordinary one. And 'tis very probable, that he afterwards communicated it to Dr. *Thomas*

mas Rugeley, Father of Dr. *Luke Rugeley*; as I find they were Cotemporaries, and Friends.

The Method, which has beſt ſucceeded with me in facilitating the efficacious Uſe of this Liniment, is to bleed, and bliſter in the Neck and behind the Ears, in order to draw off the Humors from the Eyes; and afterwards, according to the Degree of the Inflammation, or Acrimony of the Juices, to make a Drain by Iſſues between the Shoulders, or a perpetual Bliſter. And for waſhing the Eyes, I generally recommend Spring Water: which I think preferable to any ſpirituous Lotion, whether ſimple or compound. And the beſt inward Medicines I have experienced to be Conſerve of Roſemary Flowers; Antiepileptic Powders, ſuch as *Pulvis ad Guttetam*; Betony, Sage, Roſemary, Eyebright, wild Valerian Root,

Caſtor,

Caſtor, &c. waſhed down with a Tea made of ſome of the ſame Ingredients: as alſo Drops of *Spirit. Lavendulæ compoſit.* and *Sal volat. oleos.*

If the Inflammation returns, drawing about ſix Ounces of Blood from the Temples by Leaches, or Cupping on the Shoulders, is very proper.

The Liniment is to be applied with a ſmall Hair Pencil, the Eye winking or a little opened.

In proſecuting the Cure of ſore Eyes, I have been ſometimes ſurprized by want of Succeſs; 'till at length I found, that the Cauſe was a lurking intermitting Fever, every Fit of which affected the Eyes, and rendered their Diſorder obſtinate: wherefore upon taking off the Fever by a proper

Uſe

Uſe of the Bark, the Cure has been effectually performed.

This Medicine has cured many, whoſe Eyes were covered with opake *Films*, and *Cicatrices* left by Inflammations and Apoſtems of the *Cornea*; which, though they happen to Perſons of all Conditions, yet are more common among the poorer Sort of People: many of whom were ſo totally deprived of Sight, as to be under a Neceſſity of being led to me; and after ſome time could perfectly well find their Way without a Guide, to my great Satisfaction. And it is not only very beneficial in ſuch Caſes, but alſo where there is an exceſſive Pain in the Eyes, ſhooting thence up into the Head: as I particularly remember in a great Lady, who had ſuch Pains in her ſore Eyes, and Head, that ſhe had, when I firſt ſaw

her, taken about fifty Drops of *Laudanum* thrice in twenty four Hours, if I remember right; of which Complaints she and many others have been relieved by this Medicine, without the Help of any Opiate.

Monsieur *Anisson*, who was sent hither with the Duke *d'Aumont*, Commissioner for settling a Treaty of Commerce with *England*, brought me recommendatory Letters from some Friends in *France*. I observed a great Soreness and Weakness in his Eyes: of which the Application of my Medicine very soon cured him. Whereupon he assured me, that he would procure me from the King his Master any Reward I should think fit to ask for the Secret; he being accustomed to oblige his Subjects that way: but I answered him, that

I was then bound by a Promiſe to conceal it.

It is to be obſerved (contrary to the common Practice, and to the Opinion which I myſelf entertained in my earlier Days, and communicated to the Public in the Introduction to my *Natural Hiſtory of Jamaica*) that Cathartics, eſpecially with the Addition of *Mercury*, are prejudicial in the Diſeaſes of the Eyes, which are cured by this Medicine.

It is alſo worthy of Remark, that People afflicted with weak Eyes are over-fond of Hoodwinking, or covering them from the Light; which ſometimes retards the Cure, by keeping their Eyes too warm: and therefore I have conſtantly adviſed them to throw away theſe Coverings, as

ſoon as they could poſſibly bear the Light.

I was intimately acquainted with Dr. *William Stokeham*, a very ingenious Gentleman, Phyſician to King *William* III. who had formerly ſpent ſome Years at *Padua*, and had been acquainted with the moſt eminent Phyſicians of that Univerſity, and alſo with *Tachenius* of *Venice*, one of the greateſt Chemiſts of the laſt Age. He told me, he had learnt the great Virtue of *Viper's Greaſe or Fat*, in the Cure of Diſeaſes of the Eyes; which is recommended for that Purpoſe by *Daniel Ludovicus*, in his Book *De Pharmacia moderno ſeculo applicanda, Gothæ*, 1671. 12°. And this, indeed, I judged ſo very reaſonable, that I ſubſtituted that Greaſe, or Fat, in the Place of the Hog's Lard, which was in the original

 Receipt;

Receipt; and found, that it added ſo much to the Efficacy of the Medicine, as to make it do, what I thought, Wonders. And as I was not bound to Secrecy, with regard to this Improvement, I communicated it to the late Dr. *Arbuthnot*: who, after repeated Trials of that Fat alone on ſore Eyes, had ſo high an Opinion of its Virtues, that he looked on it as equally beneficial with the whole Medicine.

I have ſince read in ſome *Miſſionary Letters*, that Serpent's Fat is uſed by the *Eaſt-Indians*, for the ſame Purpoſe.

It is an Obſervation made by many Naturaliſts, that thoſe Serpents caſt their Skins every Year, and with them the Coverings of their Eyes: but how far, or whether

at all, their Fat is concerned in this *Phænomenon*, I leave to others to determine.

One of the moſt eminent and learned Chirurgical Authors, to whom I had a particular Regard in my Practice, cautions his Readers againſt the Uſe of Oil in Diſeaſes of the Eyes: by which, I ſuppoſe, he meant Olive-Oil. Agreeable to this Caution, I confeſs, I never uſed any Oil, either alone, or mixed with other Medicines, for the Eyes; being unwilling to try Remedies, whoſe Effects were doubtful, and may poſſibly be pernicious: which I afterwards obſerved to be the Caſe with regard to Olive-Oil, when uſed by ſome People (to whom I had given the Liniment) in order to make it more liquid, upon drying; for the Liniment, in that State, has

cauſed

cauſed very conſiderable Complaints. This, in my Opinion, proceeds from ſome hot, ſharp Particles, contained in the Oil; though it is generally reckoned very ſoft and mild in outward and inward Uſe: for I remember, when at *Montpellier*, I was informed by Monſieur *Magnol*, and others of my Acquaintance there, that the feeding of tame Rabbits with Olive Leaves, in want of other Food, has cauſed their making bloody Urine.

I had formerly, as already ſaid, promiſed Secrecy with regard to this Medicine: which I have religiouſly kept 'till now, that I think myſelf, for many Reaſons, abundantly abſolved. I have had ſome other Medicines of the like Nature communicated to me under the ſame Reſtriction; and excluſive of theſe few Caſes,

I can-

I cannot charge myſelf with making the leaſt Myſtery of my Practice. For in Conſultations, in a Number of Caſes of Importance, I have been always very free, and open; far from following the Example of ſome Phyſicians of good Morals and great Reputation, who have on many Occaſions thought proper to conceal Part of their own acquired Knowledge, alledging the Maxim: *Artis eſt celare Artem.* And that I have not been inclined to conceal or monopolize Medicines of great Uſe, the following Inſtance will ſufficiently ſhew.

Sir *Robert Southwell*, a very worthy Preſident of the Royal Society, who was a Patron to many Perſons of Merit, and among others to Captain *Dampier*, told me, that the Captain in Converſation let

him

him know, that his Family, at *Exmouth* in *Devonſhire*, had a ſecret Medicine, whereby they infallibly cured all Men and Beaſts, bit by mad Dogs and other Creatures. Whereupon I earneſtly entreated Sir *Robert* to uſe his Intereſt with the Captain, to procure, if poſſible, a full Account of it, as a Matter of great Conſequence to the Public. Sir *Robert* readily complied, and at his Requeſt Captain *Dampier* obtained from his Relations the Account thereof, which I publiſhed entire in the *Philoſophical Tranſactions* N°. 237, with all the neceſſary Circumſtances to be obſerved: ſeveral of which were afterwards omitted by the Abridgers of that Paper. But ſoon after the ſaid Account had been put into my Hands, having aſſured Sir *Robert*, that *Jews-Ears*, mentioned therein as a principal Ingredient of the

Me-

Medicine, must be a Mistake, inasmuch as that Vegetable is pernicious, taken inwardly; I desired him to procure a Sample of the Herb so named in the Account, in order to examine what it was, and likewise a Dose of the Medicine, to know the Quantity to be taken. This occasioned both the one and the other to be sent up from the Family; by which means I discovered, that it really was, not *Jews Ears*, but the *Lichen cinereus terrestris* of Mr. *Ray*, who had first publicly taken notice of it, in his Catalogue of *English* Plants, printed in the Year 1670: He at the same time wondering, that it had escaped the Observation of all former Botanists. And this Instance, by the by, shews the Usefulness of observing non-descript Simples, which may possibly be found, as this since was, to be of great Importance to the Welfare

of

of Mankind. This Point being ſettled, I accompanied the Publication of the Letter, or Account, with a Remark; without which, as manifeſtly appears, it either would have had no Effect, or have been of bad Conſequence. I at the ſame time acquainted Mr. *Petiver*, Mr. *Doody*, Mr. *Rand*, and other Botaniſts, with the Diſcovery of this Matter; and recommended to them to provide a Quantity of this *Lichen*, ſufficient to anſwer all Occaſions. It was accordingly made uſe of with the ſame Succeſs, with which it has ever ſince been attended.

THE END.

of Mankind. This Point being fettled, I accompanied the Publication of the Letter, or Account, with a Remark; without which, as manifeſtly appears, it either would have had no Effect, or have been of bad Conſequence. I at the ſame time acquainted Mr. Peters, Mr. Deane, Mr. Rand, and other Botanifts, with the Diſcovery of this Matter, and recommended to them to provide a Quantity of this Liquor, ſufficient to anſwer all Occaſions. It was accordingly made uſe of with the ſame Succeſs, with which it has ever ſince been attended.

THE END.